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**Editorial Board**

Lucy Arnold, Jamie Clark, Gregory Perez, Stephanie Sonnenfeld, Allison Williams, Larry Williams, Ryan Wilson, Chris Winston

## New position marks university progress

Change is more often than not a sign of progress. Many of the recent changes in our university are indicative of our forward progress.

The most recent innovation at our university is the creation of a new advisement office. The Office of Pre-Professional Advisement, created by Vice Provost Don Greiner, was designed to aid students who want to attend law school, medical school or professional graduate school.

Greiner has kept the university in a state of change in his two-year career in that post. He was essential to the creation of the Residential College, the Freshman Reading Experience and the Office of Fellowships and Summer Programs. He has kept our university in a state of progress.

Another sign of progress is the choice of leadership in the new office: Eileen Korpita, currently the program director Sexual Assault Services in the Thomas Student Health Center.

Korpita has done an excellent job of increasing knowledge on campus about sexual assault and safe sex. Her name is well-known on campus because of her public relations abilities and her diligent work. Given her past performance, one would presume she is an excellent choice as the first leader of this office. If she exhibits the same work habit and public relations ability in her new position as she has in the past, the new office will be a success.

These changes are the marks of a university that is moving forward. The new office has the potential to make USC's name known among the top medical, law and graduate schools in the country, thereby increasing our reputation.

Be proud of our progress. Your future depends upon it.



## Political labels apply to other areas of life

Normally, I focus on issues as they relate to the political context. Today, I want to narrow my focus slightly to the Christian faith. My intent here is to offer my opinion on an argument that exists inside the Christian faith. I am in no way attempting to evangelize to persons of other faiths. I have the utmost respect for all religions.

The argument that I have referred to is the way the Bible and the Christian religion are viewed. There exists a basic divide in the modern-day Christian church. This divide is often described by the same conservative-liberal labeling which exists in the American political arena. The word "conservative" (also referred to as "fundamentalist") is used to describe those Christians who believe in the true authority of Jesus Christ. This means conservative Christians believe the Bible to be God's word and that no man or woman has the right to alter, change or re-invent the core ideas expressed in the Bible.

"Liberal" Christians, on the other hand, believe that the Bible can and should be changed to "conform" with modern society's behavior or their own ideas and agendas. Liberal Christians often push for moral acceptance of homosexuality, abortion, pre-marital sex, non-traditional family units and permissive attitudes toward alcohol use.

The most critical difference between these two viewpoints centers around the actual words of Jesus Christ, which are recorded in the New Testament by his apostles. It is truly beyond my understanding how some people, who profess to be Christians, can not only exhibit, but advocate, behavior that absolutely contradicts every moral principle in the Bible. This is one concept that has dumbfounded me for many years.

The most common justification used by liberal Christians in their criticism of the conservative viewpoint is the line "Jesus didn't exactly say that." Again, this is way off the mark. Jesus did speak about many moral issues. The writings of Paul, John and the other apostles were based on the teachings of Christ. These men were chosen by Jesus to record

**TOMMY TOUCHBERRY**  
Columnist

his words and his ideas. I believe common sense would lead a sensible person to trust the words of the apostles over the words of anyone today. Besides, to have any basis for Christian morality, we must have a standard to respect.

Another important difference between the conservative and liberal viewpoints is the whole idea of tolerance, condonation and being judgmental. Liberals tend to confuse these concepts. It is true that Jesus states that we should not judge others. What he is referring to is the judging of someone's moral worth or their salvation. Only God can judge any person's salvation.

Tolerance is the act of accepting different ideas, beliefs, etc. A Christian should be tolerant of other religions and customs. But, a Christian should not compromise his or her own core beliefs in doing so. For instance, a Christian should not have to sit by unemotionally while someone else repeatedly takes God's name in vain. A Christian has every right to ask that person to refrain from doing so.

Also, it is definitely not wrong for Christians to refuse to condone behavior or ideas that are contradictory to God's word. A liberal has the right to advocate permissive attitudes toward sexual responsibility, and I have the right to advocate Christian attitudes toward sexual responsibility. When a person condones actions he or she feels is wrong, then that person is giving up the fight for what they believe in. I believe condonation is one of the weakest positions a person can take.

Finally, I want to emphasize the most important aspect of Christianity, which is to bring as many people to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. For this to happen, Christians must have a set of core values and beliefs to fall back on. Without some standard of morality, how can the Christian kingdom possibly grow? Have a great Christmas break.

### QUOTE, UNQUOTE

**"Congaree Swamp is such a valuable piece of heritage, not only to South Carolina but to the world."**

Rhett Power, political studies graduate student and Chairman of the Sierra Student Coalition

## Senior waxes nostalgic about USC experience

**TRAV ROBERTSON**  
Columnist

Well, I suppose Hootie and the Blowfish are right: time does punish us. It flies by. I will graduate this month. Four and a half years ago I started what has turned out to be a wonderful trek at the University of South Carolina.

Anyone who knows me soon realizes that I am not the straight-A student like my miraculous twin sister, Nikki. However, my father will tell anyone that of the three children he has sent to college, his only son (that's me) has been educated the most. The purpose of today's article is to offer some advice for those who will remain here at the University of South Carolina and to simply say thank you to the individuals who have made me a better person. These people helped me realize that we are not only here to promote the promise of our future but also to accomplish the things that time and youth will never allow us to do again.

First, for all those individuals who have not yet taken a foreign language, do so immediately. Don't wait until you are supposed to graduate and have to worry. Take all of the language classes consecutively despite what your advisor wants. To realize that the world is a stage, everyone should take a Shakespeare class under the guidance of Crys Armbrust. To the lovers and romantics who want to learn how make women swoon and girls fall in love, Dr. Siebert's poetry is a must. Any person who wants to grasp what law or medical school is

like needs to take Sabia's class. Dr. Robert Oakman can make any simple-minded person, like myself, understand the logic of computers. The real experience of an artsy person is Ann Dreher's class. Thank you for kicking us all out of class and then laughing at the skit of yourself during the play for points. Finally, the philosophy department. Take philosophy classes. I must suggest the classes taught by Dr. Wallulis. He puts philosophical questions in unique lights. Dr. Mulvaney's classes are a wealth of knowledge. His every sentence is filled with some historical, yet philosophical, aspect that never ceases to amaze me. The philosophy department has several new young professors who are excellent because they truly care for their classes.

I want to thank several people who have made my life at USC memorable. The late nights in Maxcy and the fire escape trips made it a wonderful place to be. It will remain in my thoughts always. To my freshman roommate, who started growing strange plants in our room, one of which I carried across the Shoe, through Preston and to the library. I later found out that it was not a plant that one grows in a home garden. To Ms. Linda Newman, who could have thrown me off campus for a little incident with

firecrackers and a bathroom. To Dkh, Andy, Brian, Craig and Mr. James for the late-night political discussions, bourbon and tunneling. To Tom Young, Kim Coward and Woody Carothers, who introduced a young, naive freshman to the pains of student leadership in Student Government. To Amy Bigham, for the late-night argumentative discussions. Amy will truly make a fine mayor of, and legislator from, Rock Hill. To the entire student Senate, who has fought the administration for the students and are the individuals who will inspire and carry our state and country through their uncertain futures.

I also would like to thank my roommate, Eric. We just call him Cav. Thank you, my friend, for the many experiences we have shared in the past four-and-a-half years. You will make a fine U.S. attorney someday. To Whitey, MaCrae, Chris, Wren, T-bird and all of the other brothers of Kappa Sigma fraternity, thank you for the relationships made and the bonds that tie. Despite what anyone believes, being a part of this group of people has helped me to deal with a wide variety of individuals, as well as situations that will help me later in life. Bailey, keep analyzing; you will be a good psychologist. Jon Robinson, good luck and keep your wit about you. Thanks Matt and Wendy for the educational lessons in journalism. Finally, I would like to thank my little twin sister.

After graduation, we will probably go separate ways for the first time in our lives. People say that the longest we have ever been separated is the 11 minutes between our births. I've enjoyed the pestering phone calls of need and help. Nikki, you are indeed a masterpiece of life and spirit, and you shall make a damn fine doctor. I'll miss the security of having you within walking distance.

The purpose of this article is to assert that there are people to meet and things to do on this campus that we take for granted everyday. Yes, we are here to get an education from our text. Four years ago I was a happy, naive person; today I am a relatively smarter individual who blinked too fast. For it is time for me to jump into the waters of the world's uncertainty, and possibly drown. That is, unless I choose to swim, and perhaps get lucky enough to catch a life raft.

This metaphor is merely trying to convince those of us graduating that we can make it. It is an exciting era at USC. With the erection of every new building and the destruction of another, the future is ushered in, yet it takes part of us with it. Therefore, we have only the memories of the Carolina we have known and the hope for a better future. People, study hard, but take time to live and enjoy the university. In the immortal words of Bob Hope, "Thanks for the memories."

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Fulfillment of personal goals important for Moeser

I write in reference to Tuesday's editorial, "USC watches one more slip away." While you curse the university for not trying hard enough to keep great academic leaders like Provost Moeser, you fail to recognize that running a large, flagship university like USC is just like running a big business. People are going to move on to bigger and better things. It's just a fact you have to deal with. I'm quite positive that President Palms didn't type Moeser's application to Nebraska.

There is nowhere else for James Moeser to go at USC. As second in command with a strong president, he had no chance of becoming president anytime soon — something that he has always stated he would like to do. Instead of bashing USC for letting another "slip away," we should congratulate Moeser for reaching his goal. It's tough to compete with someone's personal goals and aspirations.

There will be other great leaders that come and go on this campus. We need to focus on what they can do and have done for USC rather than

mourning the fact we're going to eventually lose them to their own aspirations.

**J.T. Wagenheim**  
Media Arts graduate student

### Oxfam Carolina reveals hope for troubled world

Thanks is owed to the hundreds of caring students, staff and faculty across campus for their support of the recent activities for the Oxfam Carolina campaign against hunger.

Not only was well over \$1,000 raised, but the voice of the hungry was raised and heard by many. Such activities may only scratch the surface of this huge problem, but they are signs of hope in our world, which is often consumed by self-concern and despair.

**Audrey Shippey**  
Oxfam Carolina

### A Closer Look: Our Favorite Chimney Sweep



## write now

Reader responses are welcome. Letters should be between 200 and 250 words and should be delivered personally to The Gamecock, Student Media, Room 333 of the Russell House. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letters for length and/or possible libel. Names will not be withheld under any circumstances.



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